

Graduate Theory Placement Exam

All incoming graduate music majors are required to take the Graduate Theory Placement Examination (GTPE). The GTPE will be administered online in May with results posted within one (1) week of test completion. The GTPE will be administered again in August during new student orientation. The GTPE is administered for course placement only and does not have any effect on admissions decisions. The theory faculty will collectively evaluate each GTPE and determine course placement for each student.

Examination Content (Written Theory)

- Roman numeral analysis of a work for piano that will include diatonic and altered chords, non-chord tones, secondary functions, and modulations
- Cadence identification
- Melody harmonization in four-part chorale employing proper voice-leading
- Realization of figured bass
- Analysis of the formal structure of an 18th century work

Examination Content (Aural Skills)

- Scale Dictation (Major scale, three forms of the minor scale, and ecclesiastical church modes)
- Intervallic Dictation (Ascending and descending)
- Chord Dictation (Recognition of triads, the major minor 7th chord, minor 7th chord, major 7th chord and the half and fully diminished 7th chords)
- Harmonic Dictation (Diatonic harmonic progression)
- Rhythmic Dictation (Simple, Compound, and Composite/Irregular meters)
- Melodic Dictation (Diatonic and Chromatic melodies in major and minor keys)
- Sight Singing Diatonic and Chromatic Melodies (Major and minor keys with Conducting)
- Performance of Rhythmic Exercises (Simple, Compound, and Composite/Irregular Meters with Conducting)

Recommended Preparation Materials/Sources

eTheory: Graduate Music Theory Review (GMTR)

The Eastman School of Music offers an online course designed to prepare prospective graduate music majors for graduate theory placement exams. This online course is self-paced and quite comprehensive. Eastman's GMTR course is highly recommended by the theory faculty at Howard University.

eTheory: Graduate Music Theory Review is the perfect tool for getting your theory chops back in shape before grad school. This self-directed course allows you to work at your own pace, monitoring your own progress, with a musically immersive interface that'll have you singing, playing, and listening throughout.

For more information, please go to the following website:

<https://iml.esm.rochester.edu/store/product/graduate-music-theory-review/>

Software

Auralia 6 Ear Training with Real Music. <https://www.risingsoftware.com/auralia>

Websites

- Musictheory.net (www.musictheory.net)
- Teoria (www.teoria.com)
- <http://oddquartet.com/musictheory/>

Textbooks

- *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory*, by Steven Laitz and Christopher Bartlette. Oxford University Press, 2009